


**MCI Communications
Corporation**

1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
202 887 2375

Kimberly M. Kirby
Senior Manager
FCC Affairs

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

OCT 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 15, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Nomination for Membership On the Rural Task Force
(CC Docket 96-45: Universal Service)

Ex Parte

Dear Mr. Caton:

MCI submits the following names to be considered as members of the Rural Task Force:

(1) **Dr. Michael Pelcovits**, Chief Economist, MCI Telecommunications Corporation, as a member of the Rural Task Force representing "interexchange carriers, their associations or their consultants" (as defined in **Category 4**, at page 2 of the September 17, 1997 Public Notice in this proceeding).

Dr. Pelcovits has almost twenty years experience in the telecommunications industry, having served as a staff member in the FCC's Office of Plans and Policy, as a consultant for many telecommunications companies, and for over nine years at MCI. He has a comprehensive knowledge of cost modeling and supervises all of MCI's activities in this area. He has extensive first-hand experience in State regulatory issues, having appeared before over twenty State regulatory commissions on costing, rate setting and competition policy matters. Biographical information is attached to this letter.

Dr. Pelcovits may be contacted at:

MCI Communications Corporation
1801 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

E-mail: mpelcovits@mcimail.com
Phone: 202-887-2721
Fax: 202-887-2215

(2) **Mr. Dirk "Jon" Winkel**, President and CEO of Long Lines, Ltd., as a member of the Rural Task Force representing "rural carriers, their associations or their consultants" (as defined in **Category 2**, at page 2 of the September 17, 1997 Public Notice in this proceeding).

Mr. Winkel has been in the telecommunications industry since 1978, when he joined Northwest Iowa Telephone Company in outside plant construction. Since that time, Mr. Winkel has worked in all aspects of the telecommunications business including operations, data processing, finance, and management. From 1985 to 1991, Mr. Winkel was directly responsible for the start-up, explosive growth, and management of Pioneer TeleTechnologies, a telemarketing firm which grew to over 8,000 employees in 13 states. As President and Chief Executive Office of Long Lines, Ltd., Mr. Winkel oversees several divisions and subsidiaries, providing such services as local telephone service, toll resale, cable television, security and alarm services, and Internet service.

Most recently, Mr. Winkel is actively serving as Chairperson and Acting CEO of Pioneer Holdings, L.L.C., a unique partnership joining rural telephone companies, rural power providers, and MCI to bring state-of-the-art communications services to rural America. In his continuing role as President and CEO of Long Lines, Ltd., Mr. Winkel serves as CEO of a small rural telephone company.

Mr. Winkel may be contacted at:

Long Lines, Ltd.
One River Place
600 Stevens Port Drive, Suite 150
Dakota Dunes, SD 57049-5149

Phone: 605-232-3062
Fax: 605-232-3234

(3) **Mr. John P. Kern**, President of Kern & Assoc., Inc., as a member of the Rural Task Force representing "other non-ILEC participants or other appropriate representatives, including those from groups with special interest concerns, such as individuals or groups representing the concerns of Native Americans" (as defined in **Category 7**, at page 2 of the September 17, 1997 Public Notice in this proceeding).

Mr. Kern began his career in the telecommunications industry in 1983 at the Missouri Public Service Commission where he served as both a research economist and an advisor on both federal and state telecommunications issues. Mr. Kern moved from the Missouri Commission to Ameritech in 1991 where he held the position of Director for External Affairs, moving to Director of Regulatory Affairs for Illinois Bell.

Currently, Mr. Kern is the President of Kern & Assoc., Inc., advising clients on regulatory, legislative, and public policy strategies in the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Kern may be contacted at:

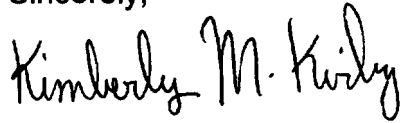
Kern & Assoc., Inc.
2300 N. Barrington Rd.
Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

E-mail: kern@tarnetinc.com

Phone: 847-490-5350
Fax: 847-884-6370

If you have any questions regarding the above individual please feel free to contact me at (202) 887-2375.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly M. Kirby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly M. Kirby

Attachments

cc: Ms. Astrid Carlson, FCC
Joint Board Members and Staff

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

MICHAEL D. PELCOVITS

Michael Pelcovits is Chief Economist, MCI Telecommunications Corporation, where he is responsible for analysis and advocacy on domestic and international economic issues before Federal and State government agencies, legislative bodies, and courts.

Since joining MCI in 1988, he has held senior staff and management positions supervising economic and analytical submissions to regulatory and legislative bodies.

Prior to MCI, Dr. Pelcovits was a principal of the Washington D.C. consulting firm of Cornell, Pelcovits and Brenner. He testified before state public utility commissions, across the country, on a wide range of telecommunications issues, and consulted on antitrust issues in telecommunications and transportation.

Before entering the consulting practice, Dr. Pelcovits served as a Senior Economist in the Office of Plans and Policy at the Federal Communications Commission and in the Bureau of International Aviation at the Civil Aeronautics Board. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Dr. Pelcovits graduated summa cum laude from the University of Rochester in 1972 and received his Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976, where he was a National Science Foundation Fellow.

DIRK "JON" WINKEL

Summary

Dirk "Jon" Winkel began his telecommunications career in 1978, when he joined Northwest Iowa Telephone Company in outside plant construction. Since that time, Jon has worked his way up through all aspects of the business, including operations, data processing, finance, and management. From 1985 to 1991, Jon was directly responsible for the start up, explosive growth, and management of Pioneer TeleTechnologies, a telemarketing firm which grew to over 8,000 employees in 13 states. As President and Chief Executive Officer of Long Lines, Ltd., Jon oversees several divisions and subsidiaries, providing such services as local telephone service, toll resale, cable television, security and alarm services, and Internet service. Most recently, Jon is actively serving as Chairperson and Acting CEO of Pioneer Holdings, L.L.C., a unique partnership joining rural telephone companies, rural power providers, and MCI to bring state-of-the-art communications services to rural America. In his continuing role as President and CEO of Long Lines, Ltd., Jon serves as CEO of a small rural telephone company.

Employment History

1997 - Present	Chairperson and Acting CEO Pioneer Holdings, L.L.C.
1989 - Present	President and Chief Executive Officer Long Lines, Ltd.
1985 - 1991	President and Chief Executive Officer Pioneer TeleTechnologies, Inc./MCI Services Marketing, Inc.
1983 - 1989	President and Chief Operating Officer Long Lines, Ltd.
1981 - 1983	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Northwest Iowa Telephone Company
1980 - 1981	Director of Operations and Data Processing Northwest Iowa Telephone Company
1979 - 1980	Outside Plant Supervisor Northwest Iowa Telephone Company
1978 - 1979	Outside Plant Construction Northwest Iowa Telephone Company
1975 - 1979	Owner and Operator Winkel Construction Company
1973 - 1975	District Court Judicial Magistrate

Education

Morningside College - Sioux City, Iowa - 1973
Bachelor of Science Degree - Business Administration

U. S. Air Force - One Year Advanced Electronics Training - 1970

Civic Activities

Firststar Bank - Board of Directors
Morningside College - Board of Directors - Vice Chairman
Sergeant Bluff Fire Department - Honorary Member / Past Fire Chief
Sergeant Bluff Kiwanis - Member
Sergeant Bluff-Luton School - Board of Directors
United Methodist Church - Certified Lay Minister
Young Presidents Organization - Member

JOHN P. KERN

Home Address

315 S. Valley Rd.
Barrington, IL 60010
847 304-8210

Work Address

Kern & Assoc., Inc.
2300 N. Barrington Rd.
Suite 400
Hoffman Estates, IL 60196
Phone 847 490-5350
Fax 847 884-6370
E-Mail: kern@starnetinc.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Kern & Assoc. Inc., President**3/94-present**

Develop regulatory, legislative and public policy strategies for emerging telecommunications clients. Represent, advise and manage clients' participation in legislative initiatives. Represent, advise and manage clients' participation before regulatory agencies, with concentration in state matters. Represent and advise clients during interconnection negotiations with incumbent local exchange carriers involving facilities-based and resale services. Conduct strategic research and advise clients regarding business development opportunities associated with retail services, access services, and interconnection related services including resale and unbundled network elements. Past and present clients include LECs, IXC's, CAPs, PCS companies, cable companies, cable associations, foreign governments and foreign operators, law firms, and electric companies.

Current member of the Advisory Board for Network Programs, Inc., a software company located in New Jersey. Activities include providing consultation on strategic and tactical issues.

Illinois Bell, Director - Regulatory Affairs**12/92-3/94**

Managed the Rates and Tariffs department responsible for filing tariffs and competitive contracts before the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). Successfully presented and defended filings before the ICC staff and intervenor groups. During 1993, 100% of all tariff filings were approved without suspension and hearing. Successful filings assured profitability and competitiveness while complying with ICC rules and regulations. In 1994, filed the Ameritech Customers First Plan which proposed to unbundle the local exchange network in exchange for interLATA relief.

Co-managed Ameritech's strategic development initiatives for Illinois Bell. Analyzed potential ICC and competitors' responses to Ameritech's actions, identified roadblocks and proposed appropriate solutions. Represented Ameritech in negotiations with the ICC and competitors. Key issues included imputation, local transport restructure, interconnection and usage subscription. Effective regulatory planning promoted informed ICC decisions that were favorable to the company and consistent with strategic initiatives.

Ameritech Services, Director - External Affairs**11/91-12/92**

Successfully directed Ameritech's participation before the state regulatory organizations in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin on regional and federal telecommunications issues. Analyzed potential responses by the five state commissions to Ameritech's actions, identified roadblocks and proposed appropriate solutions. Activities resulted in defusing opposition or gaining public support from state agencies before the

FCC, Congress and the Courts for Ameritech positions. Key issues included PCS, interconnection, transport restructure, Modified Final Judgment (MFJ), cable cross ownership (i.e. Video Dial Tone), and numbering issues

Member of the Illinois Blue Ribbon Telecommunications Task Force, an advisory board initiated by the ICC to conduct an independent analysis of the state of telecommunications in Illinois, and recommend changes to the state telecommunications laws that were set to sunset in 1993.

Ameritech Services, Manager - Federal Regulatory 9/87-11/91

Developed and advocated Ameritech positions before the FCC, state commissions, Federal-State Joint Board, and NARUC in areas related to ONA, Joint Board issues and price caps. Represented Ameritech and the United States Telephone Association (USTA) before the FCC, Joint Board, ONA 410(b) Joint Conference and NARUC. Developed and negotiated Ameritech positions on federal issues before the USTA.

Missouri Public Service Commission, Advisor (8/86-9/87), Research Economist (10/83-8/86)

Advised the Commission on long term strategic policy and planning for telecommunications. Directed and developed strategies and Commission positions on issues pending before the FCC, Congress and the Courts. Advised the Commission during negotiations with industry and government officials involving revising the state telecommunications laws that were adopted by the Missouri legislature. Assisted in technical issues pending before the Commission.

Performed economic analysis on federal and state telecommunications issues on behalf of the staff. Developed and defended Commission policies before the FCC involving separations issues, Part 64 issues, access charges, and federal pre-emption issues. Prepared Commission testimony before the Missouri legislature and the US. Congress and prepared an oral argument before the US. District Court regarding the MFJ. Filed testimony and was cross-examined on telecommunications issues.

Member, Federal-State Joint Board Staff -- represented state public service commissions during negotiations with the FCC regarding Joint Board issues. Presented Joint Board staff recommendations to the Joint Board.

EDUCATION:

MA., Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia, May 1983

BS., Economics, University of Wyoming, May 1981

ORGANIZATIONS:

Member, Illinois Blue Ribbon Telecommunications Task Force, 1990.

Member, Federal-State Joint Board Staff, 1985-1987.

Member, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee Cost Allocations, 1984-1987.